Opening of Post Offices in rural areas of Himachal Pradesh

3841. SHRI ANIL SHARMA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have formulated any special scheme to provide proper postal services in far flung and distant rural areas in Himachal Pradesh ;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Opening of Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras is a special scheme to provide proper postal services in far flung and distant rural areas in the country in addition to opening of new post offices where justified.

(b) Ten (10) New Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras and two (2) Branch Post Offices have been opened in Himachal Pradesh during the year 1999-2000. The details are given in the enclosed Statement (See below).

(c) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

STATEMENT

Details of New Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras and Branch Post Offices opened in Himachal Pradesh during the year 1999-2000

PANCHAYAT SANCHAR SEWA KENDRAS (PSSK)

Sl. No	Name of PSSK	Name of District
(1)	(2)	(3)
1.	Budhwar	Kangra
2.	Barhoon	-do-
3.	Kanod	-do-
4.	Kehrian	-do-

(1)	(2)	(3)
5.	Leach	Chamba
6.	Rinda	-do-
7.	Osal	-do-
8.	Rulyani	-do-
9.	Panoh	Hamirpur
10.	Bum	Bilaspur

BRANCH POST OFFICES

1.	Mair	Hamirpur
2.	Jhanjhiani	-do-

Unsatisfactory telephone services in rural areas

†3842. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA :

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL :

Will the MINISTER of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the position of telephone services in rural areas of the country is not satisfactory;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction in this regard;

(c) whether Government have assessed the reasons for this poor condition; and

(d) if so, whether there is any plan to remedy this situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The telephone services in the rural areas of the country are generally satisfactory but for some problems in the functioning of Village Public Telephones and non availability of reliable media connectivity to all rural exchanges.

(b) to (d) The following steps have been taken to improve the performance of Villlage Public Telephones (VPTs) :

(i) Daily testing of VPTs from the Exchange.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.